pleasures of the world. When Palamedes came to Ithaca, to Invite Ulysses to join in the expedition against Troy, the latter, unwilling to engage in the undertaking, betook himself to ploughing the sand and sowing salt, on the pretence of being visited with insanity. There are multitudes as sane as Ulysses, who betake themselves to works as Insane, and all in the way of pretence, to excuse themselves from the performance of the immediate duties which they owe to God.

Sometimes, no doubt, notwithstanding his general unwillingness, man is all but compelled to think of God, by the circumstances in which he is placed; but when the thought cornes into his mind, he banishes it with all practicable haste, as the Gadarenes besought Jesus to depart from their coasts, when they found that, in consequence of his visit, a portion of their property, kept by them contrary to the law of Moses, which they professed to reverence, had been destroyed, tinder some impulse of feeling, in the hour of deep grief and disappointment, find in the apprehension of overhanging judgments, he betakes himself to God, and calls up the remembrance of his name from the oblivion to which it had been consigned; but as He stands before him in awful majesty, he is as awe-struck as were Saul and the witch of Endor, when Samuel actually appeared to them. In some other cases he may cling to the thought still more fondly and for a greater length of time, as eagerly indeed as the Philistines seized the ark of God, and carried it into the temple of Dagon ; but he soon loses his desire for so near an approach to God, when he finds it inconsistent with the desires of his corrupted heart, just as the Philistines banished the ark when it threw clown their idols and afflicted their cities. The great majority of mankind come at last to learn the art, too easily learned by depraved man—that of living without God in the

world. " God is not in all their thoughts."

True, when men succeed in obtaining a false view of God, when they are enabled to look upon him as one who can overlook their failings, and cherish and countenance them in their sins, they will think of him more frequently, and pay him a willing homage. It is thus that we account for the inclination to polytheism and idolatry in the earlier ages of the world, and the simpler stages of society; and it is thus, too, that we explain the tendency among more cultivated nations, and in the present